

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-14. Canceled.

15. (New) A method for producing a mutant protease having reduced allergenicity comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a naturally-occurring protease having subtilisin activity and preparing fragments of said naturally-occurring protease having subtilisin activity;
- b) contacting said fragments of said naturally-occurring protease with a first solution comprising naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells and dendritic cells, wherein said dendritic cells have been differentiated;
- c) identifying an epitope region of said naturally-occurring protease, wherein said identifying comprises measuring the ability of said fragments of said naturally-occurring protease epitope region to stimulate proliferation of said naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells;
- d) replacing said epitope region identified in step c) with an analogous epitope region, to produce said mutant protease;
- e) preparing fragments of said mutant protease;
- f) contacting said fragments of said mutant protease with a second solution comprising naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells and dendritic cells, wherein said dendritic cells have been differentiated; and
- g) measuring the ability of said fragments of said mutant protease to stimulate proliferation of said naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells.

16. (New) The method of Claim 15, further comprising the step of comparing the ability of said fragments of said naturally-occurring protease having microbial subtilisin activity to stimulate proliferation of said naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells with the ability of said fragments of said mutant protease to stimulate proliferation of said naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells.

17. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said dendritic cells and said CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells in said first and second solutions are obtained from a single blood source.

18. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said naturally-occurring protease is obtained from a *Bacillus* selected from the group consisting of *B. amyloliquefaciens*, *B. subtilis*, *B. licheniformis*, *B. lentus*, and *Bacillus* PB92.
19. (New) The method of Claim 15, wherein said epitope is a T-cell epitope.
20. (New) The method of Claim 15, further comprising the step of producing an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding said mutant protease.
21. (New) The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of transforming at least one host cell with said expression vector.
22. (New) The method of Claim 21, further comprising the steps of cultivating said at least one host cell in a culture medium under conditions that promote the expression of said mutant protease and recovering said mutant protease from said cell or said culture medium.
23. (New) A method for reducing the allergenicity of a microbial subtilisin comprising the steps of:
- a) obtaining a microbial subtilisin, and preparing fragments of said microbial subtilisin;
 - b) contacting said fragments of said microbial subtilisin with a first solution comprising naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells and dendritic cells, wherein said dendritic cells have been differentiated;
 - c) identifying an epitope of said microbial subtilisin, wherein said identifying comprises measuring the ability of said fragments of said microbial subtilisin to stimulate proliferation of said naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells;
 - d) replacing said epitope identified in step c) with an analogous region to produce a mutant subtilisin;
 - e) preparing fragments of said mutant subtilisin;

f) contacting said fragments of said mutant subtilisin with a second solution comprising naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells and dendritic cells, wherein said dendritic cells have been differentiated; and

g) measuring the ability of said fragments of said mutant subtilisin to stimulate proliferation of said naïve human CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells, wherein at least one of said fragments of said mutant subtilisin stimulate said T-cells in said second solution to a lesser extent than the subtilisin in step c).

24. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said dendritic cells and said CD4+ or CD8+ T-cells in said first and second solutions are obtained from a single blood source.

25. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said subtilisin is obtained from a *Bacillus* selected from the group consisting of *B. amyloliquefaciens*, *B. subtilis*, *B. licheniformis*, *B. lentus*, and *Bacillus* PB92.

26. (New) The method of Claim 23, wherein said epitope is a T-cell epitope.

27. (New) The method of Claim 23, further comprising the step of producing an expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding said mutant subtilisin.

28. (New) The method of Claim 27, further comprising the step of transforming at least one host cell with said expression vector.

29. (New) The method of Claim 28, further comprising the step of cultivating said at least one host cell in a culture medium under conditions that promote the expression of said mutant protease and recovering said mutant protease from said cell or said culture medium.